
Updated Information Summary for STAR 2001

The following information summary is provided to assist county, district, and school staffs with preparation for the spring 2001 Standardized Testing and Reporting (STAR) Program.

Students to Be Tested

All students in Grades 2–11 are required to take the Stanford Achievement Test, Ninth Edition, Form T (Stanford 9) and the California Standards Tests (previously referred to as augmented or STAR tests). In addition to the Stanford 9 and the California Standards Tests, all Spanish-speaking English learners, who will have been enrolled in California public schools less than 12 months at the time tests are administered, are required to take the Spanish Assessment of Basic Education, Second Edition (SABE/2).

Students Exempted from Testing

Students receiving special education services are not to be tested if their Individual Education Plan (IEP) explicitly states that they are not to participate in the STAR Program.

Students for whom parents/guardians have submitted a written request that the students not be tested with all or any part of the test are to be exempted from testing in accordance with the written requests. The parent/guardian must initiate the request, and the school district and its employees are prohibited from soliciting or encouraging the exemption of any child. Any information that is sent to parents/guardians notifying them of their right to not have their child(ren) tested must be sent to all parents/guardians in the same form.

STAR Testing Window

The testing window for the Stanford 9 and California Standards Tests is a 21 instructional-day period comprised of 10 days before and after the day on which 85 percent of the instructional year is completed. All regular and make-up testing must be completed within this 21-day period. (Title 5, California Code of Regulations, Section 855, as amended). Schools may not begin testing before March 12, 2001.

The SABE/2 testing window is unchanged from 2000 and will continue to be March 15–May 15. Districts may begin administering the SABE/2 on February 26, 2001, if they submit all required information to CTB/McGraw-Hill within the timelines specified in the SABE/2 enrollment and pre-identification information.

Ordering Spring 2001 Testing Materials

Districts received information for ordering spring 2001 testing materials directly from Harcourt Educational Measurement and CTB/McGraw-Hill. Order forms from both companies arrived in districts between October 25 and November 3, 2000. Completed forms and district STAR coordinator security agreements were due by November 30, 2000.

Grade 4 and 7 Writing Assessment

All students in grades 4 and 7, and students taking grade 4 or 7 tests out-of-level, will be administered a writing assessment in spring 2001. The prompts for each grade will address one of the genres specified in the state Writing Applications standards for the grade. Two days have been designated for the writing test: Tuesday, March 27, with make-up on Wednesday, March 28; and Tuesday, May 8, with make-up on Wednesday, May 9. All students in schools, tracks, or programs in session on March 27 must be tested on that day. Only students in schools, tracks, or programs not in session on March 27 may be tested on May 8. Materials for the March 27 writing test administration will be delivered to districts the week of March 12, and completed tests must be returned for scoring by April 4. Materials for the May 8 administration will be delivered the week of April 23. All materials must be returned by May 16.

Students will have 60 minutes to complete the writing assessment. Different writing tasks will be used for the March and May administrations. Writing tasks from the March administration, received for scoring after April 20, will not be scored.

California Mathematics Standards Tests

The California Mathematics Standards Tests for grades 2–7 include at least 50 percent new questions. The tests for grades 8–11 will be administered in two 55-minute sessions.

The 2001 California Mathematics Standards Tests for grades 8–11 will not include any Stanford 9 questions. The tests will have 65 questions and will be administered in two 75-minute sessions. All students in grades 8–11 will receive scores for the California Mathematics Standards Tests, if a Standards Test is taken. All students in grades 8–10 are required to take a California Mathematics Standards Test if they have completed or will complete one of the following courses during the 2000–2001 school year: Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II, Integrated Math 1, 2, or 3.

All students in grade 11 are required to take a California Mathematics Standards Test if they have completed or will complete one of the following courses during the 2000–2001 school year: Algebra I, Geometry, Integrated Math 1, or 2. Students in grade 11 who are enrolled in Algebra II or Integrated Math 3 at the time of testing also are to be tested with the California Mathematics Standards Test for the course in which they are enrolled.

All students in grade 11 who will have completed Algebra II or Integrated Math 3 before the 2001 STAR testing begins are required to take the California Grade-11 Mathematics Standards Test. This includes students who completed either of these courses at any time prior to the test administration.

California History-Social Science Standards Tests

All students in grades 9-11 will be tested with new California History-Social Science Standards Tests. The tests will have 60 questions and will be administered in two 45-minute sessions. These tests will be included in the Stanford 9 STAR test booklet for each grade level.

The tests include the following:

- Grade 9 Content Standards for grades 4–8
- Grade 10 World History
- Grade 11 United States History

California Science Standards Tests

All students in grades 9-11 who completed or will complete a standards-based science course during the 2000–2001 school year are required to take a California Science Standards Test. The tests will have 60 questions and be administered in two 45-minute sessions. Four tests covering the science disciplines and four coordinated/integrated course configurations are available:

- Earth Science
- Biology
- Chemistry
- Physics
- Earth Science/Biology/Chemistry (EBC)
- Earth Science/Chemistry/Physics (ECP)
- Earth Science/Biology/Physics (EBP)
- Biology/Chemistry/Physics (BCP)

Teachers of coordinated science are to select the test that most closely matches their curriculum. Teachers may choose to adjust the curriculum for coordinated science classes to better align course content with the tests.

Pre-Identification Services

Harcourt Educational Measurement requires districts to submit a single pre-ID file for all students in grades 2–11 who will be tested during spring 2001. The pre-ID file should include all waves and will be used to produce bar coded documents or labels for both the writing tests in grades 4 and 7 and the multiple-choice tests in grades 2-11. The file must be submitted at least 30 business days before the district's first delivery of testing materials for bar coded documents and at least 15 business days before the district's first delivery day for bar coded adhesive labels.

2001 Student Demographic Data

As in spring 2000, pre-ID files and student answer documents will be edited to ensure that complete demographic data have been provided. If any school exceeds state tolerances for missing data, processing of the pre-ID file or answer documents will be stopped, and the district STAR coordinator will be contacted to supply a complete new pre-ID file or the missing information. There is no charge for correcting pre-ID files; however, all corrections must be made within the publishers' timelines.

If answer documents for either Stanford 9/California Standards Tests or the SABE/2 require editing for missing information, money will be withheld from the district's apportionment to pay for the editing. \$1.25 per student document requiring editing will be withheld for the Stanford 9 and California Standards Tests, and \$2.44 will be withheld for SABE/2.

The following changes have been made in the demographic information being collected for spring 2001:

- Both primary and second ethnicity have been modified with "Other" no longer available. The ethnic classifications include:
 - American Indian/ or Alaska Native
 - Asian/Asian American
 - Black/African American
 - Filipino/Filipino American
 - Hispanic/Latino
 - Pacific Islander
 - White (not of Hispanic origin)
- Home language requires entering the two-digit language codes used for the R30-Language Census. The code for English is "00." A list of codes was included with the pre-ID directions sent to districts.
- The specific programs in which English Learners are enrolled has been added to the Program Participation grid—
 - English Learners in English Language Development Programs
 - English Learners in Bilingual Programs (includes ELD)
 - English Learners in SDAIE Programs (includes ELD)
- "Tahitian and Other Pacific Islander" have been added to the "Asian or Pacific Islander" Ethnicity
- English Learners in California Public Schools less than 12 Months must be coded

Demographic Code Definitions/Descriptions

To provide accurate comparisons between and among schools, all STAR coordinators must interpret the demographic fields in the same way. The following information is provided to assist with this activity:

Primary and Second Ethnicity	Code as many ethnicities as applicable for students with multiethnic backgrounds. Code one as the primary ethnicity, and all others are to be coded as “All other groups with which the student identifies.”
Asian or Pacific Islander	Code specific Asian or Pacific Islander group for students whose primary or other ethnicity is Asian or Pacific Islander. This is required in Section 8310.5 of the State Government Code.
Parent Education Level	Code the education level of the student’s most educated parent or guardian with whom the student resides. “Some college” means completion of any courses within a two or four year academic program—it does not include vocational or technical schools. “College graduate” is graduation with a B.A. or B.S. degree or an equivalent degree from a foreign university.
Home Language	Code English or the home language identified on the Home Language Survey.
School Mobility	Code the grade from which the student has been continuously enrolled in the school and has not been removed from the school’s enrollment for any reason.
District Mobility	Code the grade from which the student has been continuously enrolled in the district—the student may have moved between schools in the district.
Enrollment	Code “yes” or “no” to indicate if this student transferred from an elementary district that normally matriculates to this district—the student may be currently enrolled in the lowest grade of a high school district or in a unified school district that receives students from elementary districts.

Language Fluency

- English only—student whose primary language is English
- Initially Fluent English Proficient—student whose primary language is other than English and who met the criteria for proficiency in English when he/she (first) enrolled in school
- Redesignated Fluent English Proficient—student whose primary language is other than English who entered school as an English Learner and later was redesignated as fluent English proficiency
- English Learner—student whose primary language is other than English who has been determined to lack sufficient fluency in English based on a state-approved oral language (K-grade 12) and literacy (grades 3-12) assessment to succeed in the school’s regular instructional program

Program Participation

- Must be coded as “no program participation” or code all programs in which the student participates—
- Class size reductions are K–grade 3 only
 - ESEA Title I Schoolwide—code for all students in the school
 - ESEA Title I Targeted—code only for students eligible for and receiving Title I services
 - Migrant Education—code for students with state-assigned migrant student identification numbers
 - Indian Education—code for students with tribal identification numbers receiving Indian Education services

State Compensatory Education

Code if student participated in any program funded through State Compensatory Education

EL in ELD	Student is receiving a program of English Language Development
EL in Bilingual	Student is receiving a program of English Language Development, as well as primary language instruction in the language arts and mathematics, science, or social science
EL in SDAIE	Student is receiving a program of English Language Development as well as Specially Designed Academic Instruction in English for one or more content areas
Special Education Service Delivery And Handicapping Conditions	Code all services student is receiving and his/her primary disability

2001 Blueprints for California Standards Tests

Blueprints for all 2001 California Standards Tests will be posted at star.cde.ca.gov by Friday, December 15, 2000.

STAR 2001 Informational Materials

Districts and schools will receive some new informational materials for the 2001 STAR Program. Student/Parent/Teacher Brochures describing the California Standards Tests will be distributed to districts during late January or early February. The California Department of Education has prepared an updated Parent Information Packet for STAR 2001. This packet will be available at star.cde.ca.gov by Friday, December 15, 2000 in English and by January 19, 2001 in Spanish. An administration video, for use in training sessions with test examiners and proctors, will be distributed one per school during early February.

Pre-Test Workshops

The California Department of Education (CDE), Harcourt Educational Measurement and CTB/McGraw-Hill will conduct pre-test workshops for the spring 2001 test administration during late January and early February. Watch for registration information during December 2000.

Posting STAR Results on High School Transcripts

A number of districts have indicated that they include or plan to include Stanford 9 and/or California Standards Test results on students' transcripts. Section 60641(c) of the California Education Code states:

“The school district shall include the pupil’s test results in his or her pupil records. However, except as provided in this section, individual pupil test results may only be released with the permission of the pupil’s parent or guardian.”

The CDE's legal office has issued the following opinion related to including the test results on student transcripts:

The placement of a pupil's results from the STAR test on a transcript issued to a third party may only be done when the parent or pupil has given specific written consent for inclusion of the STAR test results on the transcript. Further, it is our opinion that a school district, county office of education, or charter school may not make the STAR test results an integral part of the transcript so that a parent or pupil who does not consent to the inclusion of STAR test results on the transcript cannot have a transcript issued to third parties.